

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113820
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:FHARTLEY;CWARVARIV;JU
APPROVED BY IO/UNESCO:CWARVARIV
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P 041952Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113820

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO:104TH EXBD: AGENDA ITEM 5.5.4 ON MASS
MEDIA

REFS: A) HEATER-WARVARIV TEL CON 5/4/78
B) PARIS 14337

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES VALUE OF USDEL'S DEVELOPING BROAD
PHILOSOPHICAL TREATMENT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (REF A),
BUT QUESTIONS WHETHER IT APPROPRIATE IN CONNECTION WITH
EX BD ACTION ON DG'S REPORT ON SUBJECT ITEM (DOC. 104
EX/28). WE WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON NARROW TECHNICAL
OBJECTIVE OF HAVING EX BD RECOMMEND TO THE DG EXCLUSION
OF MASS MEDIA DRAFT DECLARATION FROM 20TH GC, IN FAVOR OF
WHATEVER ALTERNATIVE WITHIN REACH (POSTPONEMENT, REFERRAL
TO ICSCP, BEGINNING AGAIN FROM A CLEAN SLATE ALONG LINES
SUGGESTED IN PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF EX/28). WE WISH
TO REPRESENT THIS COURSE MATTER-OF-FACTLY AS THE ONLY
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LOGICAL CONCLUSION OF THE DG'S REPORT, POINTING OUT THAT
PURSUIT OF A COURSE AIMED AT ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT
DECLARATION WOULD, IN THE FACE OF AN ACKNOWLEDGED LACK
OF CONSENSUS, NEEDLESSLY PRODUCE FURTHER RUPTURES IN THE
FABRIC OF UNESCO.

2. DEPT. FEARS THAT FULL-BLOWN INTERVENTION IN DEFENSE

OF FREE PRESS (REF A) MIGHT JEOPARDIZE DESIRED OUTCOME BY
STIMULATING COUNTER-RHETORIC BY DRAFT DECLARATION'S
DEFENDERS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMOGAGY BY RELATING
OUR STATEMENT TO ALLEGED "MEDIA CONSPIRACY AGAINST
UNESCO AND DG." (REF B).

3. WE STRESS AGAIN THE NEED TO ORCHESTRATE WEO POSITIONS,
AS WELL AS THOSE MENTIONED IN PARA 7 OF REF (B), ON THE
ISSUE OF RECOMMENDING TO DG EXCLUSION OF MASS MEDIA
DECLARATION FROM 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. CHRISTOPHER

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